

TOWN AND COUNTY ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Issues Update

January 24, 2007

From: Allen Reinhard, Chairman

R&ROW Members,

I am writing to bring the committee up-to-date on outstanding right of way issues. Finding a time to meet when everyone is available is a challenge. Nothing requiring a vote has come up, so I thought it was time for another update.

New issues:

Sconset beach re-nourishment plan: The Town has entered into negotiations with the proponents of the Sconset beach preservation project to secure public access from the Sconset footpath to the beach. Andrew Vorce, Doug Unruh, the Town's One Big Beach overseer, and I will meet the week of January 29 to develop a recommendation utilizing existing ways down the bluff. The Conservation Commission required public access as a condition for construction of three sets of stairs down the bluff over the years. There are apparently six to nine abutter's ways that go from Baxter Road to the beach. I walked the footpath the other day and then inspected the "soft armoring" that is being done. There is not much winter beach. I will be sure public access is part of any negotiation concerning this project.

Coal Alley: This alleyway, a public way, which runs from Main Street to Cambridge Street has several encroachments including a dumpster, and several trash and grease receptacles. It becomes an enforcement issue. Our committee's role is to notify the Town Administrator and Selectmen of the situation and have them write a letter to the offending parties and then to follow up.

Takings List update: I have attached a copy of our Road Taking Priority List to this update. This list was approved by the BOS/CC last January. East Creek Road should be placed on the list and we may want to revisit this list when we meet next.

Continuing issues:

Old Settlers Burial Ground: It is amazing how long this project has taken. Still no plan has emerged to guarantee access to this important historic site. John Stackpole and I have been working with the Land Bank, the Anglers Club, the Town and the property owner on Cliff Road to resolve the issues and interests of all parties. We seem to be inching toward a resolution as the Town Administrator is getting public pressure to resolve this issue. Maybe by spring there will be a small parking area and a path to the cemetery.

Washing Pond Road taking: Andrew will schedule this matter with the County Commissioners to begin this taking as we voted at our October 20 meeting. All paperwork has to be in place before the Commissioners act so as to meet the thirty day filing deadline.

Spruce Street: Andrew has contacted the DPW to remove the old fence and vegetation from this public way so as to open the view of the creeks. Now comes the follow up.

Eel Point Road to Dionis Beach: Andrew is working on a survey plan that will provide a public access across Town land from Dionis Beach to Ranger Road and the trail through the Land Bank's Trotts Hills property. This is another ongoing project that will eventually provide public pedestrian access from Dionis to the south shore.

In the same area, the Eel Point Road Association, Inc. the private property owners who oversee maintenance of the private (unpaved) section of Eel Point Road are apparently not interested in a voluntary taking or easement to make this section a public way. Discussion will continue.

Smooth Hummocks Road: There has been no action from the abutting property owner yet to grade or fill this road. One question would be should this road be moved up from number eight on our takings list. How valuable a public link is this road and should the county take this road and assume maintenance responsibility?

East Creek Road: A storm water drainage system plan is designed for this road between Marine Home Center and Our Island Home. The property owner at the end of the road has declared her opposition to this being made a public way. The NP&EDC is still looking at the situation to see how best to proceed to guarantee public access to the creeks between Orange and Spruce Streets.

Surfside takings: The Town has begun the taking process for six of the ways to the beach in Surfside.

Right of Way Improvement Plan: Brenda Hall has volunteered to do some of the research for various parts of this project. The scope of this plan has increased to include fifteen different sections. I am beginning to think that spring is an optimistic deadline for presenting this plan to the BOS/CC for adoption. Once Town Meeting is over, I hope to be able to spend more time developing this project. Fall may be a better time to focus community attention on this Right of Way plan.

None of these items requires a vote or any specific committee action at this time. I hope this update is helpful and is intended to keep the focus on ROW issues before our committee. I have been spending much of my time on government study issues and apologize for not meeting more frequently. If you have question or comments, feel free to e-mail me at allenreinhard@yahoo.com or call me at home (228.5167) or on my cell phone (508.221.8128).

TOWN and COUNTY ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Memo to: Nantucket County Commissioners/Board of Selectmen
Libby Gibson, Town and County Administrator

F r o m: Allen B. Reinhard, Chairman
Nantucket Town and County Roads and Right of Way Committee

D a t e: January 30, 2006

Subject: Updated Recommended Road Taking Priority List

At our public meeting held January 4, 2006, The Town and County Roads and Right of Way Committee unanimously voted to update our recommended list of private roads that, because of extensive public use and for the public good, should be taken by the County Commissioners as public roads. This list will replace the last update of November 2003. I will be happy to discuss the basis the committee used to prioritize these takings and answer any questions you may have. If, after reviewing this list, you agree with the committee's recommendation, we would ask the appropriate boards to endorse or modify the list. Please call or e-mail me with any questions.

Town and County Roads and Right of Way Committee
Recommended Road Taking Priority List: January 4, 2006

1. Millbrook Road (from Madaket Road to Hummock Pond Road)
2. Somerset Road and Friendship Lane (from Bartlett Road to Vesper Lane)
3. Boulevarde, Lovers Lane, Orkowaw Avenue, Monohansett Road, Clifford Street (from public road at end of Macy's Lane to Surfside Road)
4. Eel Point Road and Warren's Landing Road (private road sections)
5. Cato Lane (from Bartlett Road to Vesper Lane)
6. Pocomo Road (from end of 1975 taking to Nantucket Harbor low water line)
7. Red Barn Road (from South Cambridge to Sheep Pond Road)
8. Smooth Hummocks Way
9. Squam Road
10. Hinckley Lane (from Cliff Road to harbor low water line)